

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE  
SPECIFIC NAME " GEMMASCENS " ESPER, [1794], AS PUBLISHED  
IN THE COMBINATION " MADREPORA GEMMASCENS " (CLASS  
HYDROZOA, ORDER STYLASTERINA)

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *gemmaascens* Esper, [1794], as published in the combination *Madrepora gemmaascens*, by suppressing the specific name *gemmaascens* Wilkens, 1787, as published in the same combination.

2. Houttuyn (1772, *Nat. Hist. Linn.* 1(17) : 169) used the name "Dopjes-Koraal" for a madreporarian coral of the family OCULINIDAE, which, judging by the figure, to all appearances belongs to the genus *Amphelia*. Müller (P.L.S.) (1775, *Linné vollständ Natursyst.* 6(2) : 705) copied Houttuyn's figure and used the name "Knospencorall". Wilkens (1787, in Pallas, *Charakteristic Thierpflanzen* 2 : 144) described the coral as *Madrepora gemmaascens*, the characters being taken from Houttuyn and Müller. A short characterization of the coral appeared in Gmelin ([1791], *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(6) : 3781) and in Bosc (1802, *Hist. nat. Vers* 2 : 281); not a single reference was to be found in later literature.

3. Esper ([1794], *Die Pflanzenthiere*, Forts. 1(2) : 60) described a stylasterine coral from East Indian seas as *Madrepora gemmaascens*. This coral was referred to by Dana (1848, *U.S. Explor. Exped.*, Zooph. : 696) as *Allopora gemmaascens*, by Milne Edwards & Haime (1850, *Ann. Sci. Nat., Paris* (3) 13 : 98) as *Styleraster gemmaascens*.

4. Kent (1871, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* : 281) tentatively identified a Norwegian stylasterine coral with *Madrepora gemmaascens* Esper; Sars (1873, *Forts. Vidensk.-Selsk. Christiania* : 115) unhesitatingly used the name *Styleraster gemmaascens* (Esper) for the Norwegian species. In later papers this name has been in constant use.

5. In a recent paper (Boschma, 1955, *Proc. K. ned. Akad. Wetensch. Amsterdam* 58(C) : 22-31, pl. 1) it was shown that Esper's holotype which is here selected as the lectotype of *Madrepora gemmascens* is conspecific with the Norwegian coral at present constantly referred to as *Stylaster gemmascens* (Esper), while attention was drawn to the fact that it would lead to great confusion if this name were to become invalid and had to be replaced by a new one.

6. The concrete proposals which are accordingly laid before the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature are that it should :—

(1) use its Plenary Powers to suppress the undermentioned names and usages of names for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy :—

- (a) *gammascens* Wilkens, 1787, as published in the combination *Madrepora gemmascens*;
- (b) *gammascens*, all uses of, in the combination *Madrepora gemmascens*, subsequent to Wilkens ((1787) and prior to Esper ([1794]);

(2) place the undermentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

*gammascens* Esper, [1794], as published in the combination *Madrepora gemmascens*, as determined by the holotype figured by Boschma (H.) (1955);

(3) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* the names and usages of names specified in (1) above, as there proposed to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers.